



January 20, 2016

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## SENATE BILL No. 131

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DIGEST OF SB 131 (Updated January 14, 2016 11:08 am - DI 104)

**Citations Affected:** IC 31-33; noncode.

**Synopsis:** Department of child services reporting. Defines "life threatening". Changes the definition of "near fatality", for purposes of the law concerning records relating to a child's death or near fatality, to a severe childhood injury or condition that is certified by a physician as being life threatening. Specifies that documents related to a near fatality are confidential while a police investigation is ongoing. Urges the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on public health, behavioral health, and human services or another appropriate interim study committee the topics of medical records confidentiality and medical records disclosure in instances of child abuse or neglect.

**Effective:** Upon passage; July 1, 2016.

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**Broden, Grooms, Miller Patricia**

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January 5, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Family & Children Services.  
January 19, 2016, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SB 131—LS 6363/DI 123





January 20, 2016

Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 131

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1       SECTION 1. IC 31-33-18-1.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.119-2013,  
2       SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3       JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 1.5. (a) This section applies to records held by:  
4               (1) a local office;  
5               (2) the department; or  
6               (3) the department of child services ombudsman established by  
7               IC 4-13-19-3;  
8       regarding a child whose death or near fatality may have been the result  
9       of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.  
10       (b) For purposes of subsection (a), a child's death or near fatality  
11       may have been the result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect if:  
12               (1) an entity described in subsection (a) determines that the child's  
13               death or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment, or  
14               neglect; or  
15               (2) a prosecuting attorney files:  
16                       (A) an indictment or information; or  
17                       (B) a complaint alleging the commission of a delinquent act;

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that, if proven, would cause a reasonable person to believe that the child's death or near fatality may have been the result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

Upon the request of any person, or upon its own motion, the court exercising juvenile jurisdiction in the county in which the child's death or near fatality occurred shall determine whether the allegations contained in the indictment, information, or complaint described in subdivision (2), if proven, would cause a reasonable person to believe that the child's death or near fatality may have been the result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

(c) If the juvenile court finds that the child's death or near fatality was the result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, the court shall make written findings and provide a copy of the findings and the indictment, information, or complaint described under subsection (b)(2) to the department.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "case" means:

(A) any intake report generated by the department;

(B) any investigation or assessment conducted by the department; or

(C) ongoing involvement between the department and a child or family that is the result of:

(i) a program of informal adjustment; or

(ii) a child in need of services action;

for which related records and documents have not been expunged as required by law or by a court at the time the department is notified of a fatality or near fatality;

(2) "contact" means in person communication about a case in which:

(A) the child who is the victim of a fatality or near fatality is alleged to be a victim; or

(B) the perpetrator of the fatality or near fatality is alleged to be the perpetrator;

(3) "identifying information" means information that identifies an individual, including an individual's:

(A) name, address, date of birth, occupation, place of employment, and telephone number;

(B) employer identification number, mother's maiden name, Social Security number, or any identification number issued by a governmental entity;

(C) unique biometric data, including the individual's fingerprint, voice print, or retina or iris image;



(D) unique electronic identification number, address, or routing code;

(E) telecommunication identifying information; or

(F) telecommunication access device, including a card, a plate, a code, an account number, a personal identification number, an electronic serial number, a mobile identification number, or another telecommunications service or device or means of account access;

**(4) "life threatening" means an injury or condition that is categorized as "serious" or "critical" in patient hospital records; and**

**~~(4) (5) "near fatality" has the meaning set forth in 42 U.S.C. 5106a.~~ means a severe childhood injury or condition that is certified by a physician as being life threatening.**

(e) Unless:

**(1) for purposes of a near fatality, a police investigation is ongoing; or**

**(2) information in a record is otherwise confidential under state or federal law;**

a record described in subsection (a) that has been redacted in accordance with this section is not confidential and may be disclosed to any person who requests the record. The person requesting the record may be required to pay the reasonable expenses of copying the record.

(f) When a person requests a record described in subsection (a), the entity having control of the record shall immediately transmit a copy of the record to the court exercising juvenile jurisdiction in the county in which the death or near fatality of the child occurred. However, if the court requests that the entity having control of a record transmit the original record, the entity shall transmit the original record.

(g) Upon receipt of the record described in subsection (a), the court shall, within thirty (30) days, redact the record to exclude:

(1) identifying information described in subsection (d)(3)(B) through (d)(3)(F) of a person; and

(2) all identifying information of a child less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(h) The court shall disclose the record redacted in accordance with subsection (g) to any person who requests the record, if the person has paid:

(1) to the entity having control of the record, the reasonable expenses of copying under IC 5-14-3-8; and

(2) to the court, the reasonable expenses of copying the record.



(i) The data and information in a record disclosed under this section must include the following:

(1) A summary of the report of abuse or neglect and a factual description of the contents of the report.

(2) The ~~date of birth~~ age and gender of the child.

(3) The cause of the fatality or near fatality, if the cause has been determined.

(4) Whether the department had any contact with the child or the perpetrator before the fatality or near fatality, and, if the department had contact, the following:

(A) The frequency of the contact with the child or the perpetrator before the fatality or near fatality and the date on which the last contact occurred before the fatality or near fatality.

(B) A summary of the status of the child's case at the time of the fatality or near fatality, including:

(i) whether the child's case was closed by the department before the fatality or near fatality; and

(ii) if the child's case was closed as described under item (i), the date of closure and the reasons that the case was closed.

(j) The court's determination under subsection (g) that certain identifying information or other information is not relevant to establishing the facts and circumstances leading to the death or near fatality of a child is not admissible in a criminal proceeding or civil action.

**SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) As used in this SECTION, "public health, behavioral health, and human services committee" refers to the interim study committee on public health, behavioral health, and human services established by IC 2-5-1.3-4.**

**(b) As used in this SECTION, "study committee" means an interim study committee established by IC 2-5-1.3-4.**

**(c) The general assembly urges the legislative council to assign to the public health, behavioral health, and human services committee or another appropriate study committee the topics of:**

**(1) medical records confidentiality; and**

**(2) medical records disclosure;**

**in instances of child abuse and neglect.**

**(d) If the legislative council assigns the topics described in subsection (c) to the public health, behavioral health, and human services committee or another appropriate study committee, the public health, behavioral health, and human services committee or the appropriate study committee shall complete the study required**



1 by this SECTION and report its findings and recommendations, if  
2 any, to the legislative council in an electronic format under  
3 IC 5-14-6 not later than November 1, 2016.  
4 (e) This SECTION expires January 1, 2017.  
5 SECTION 3. An emergency is declared for this act.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Family and Children Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 131, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 3, line 9, delete ":".

Page 3, line 10, delete "(A)".

Page 3, run in lines 9 through 10.

Page 3, line 11, delete "or".

Page 3, delete lines 12 through 13.

Page 3, line 14, delete "critical care unit;".

Page 3, run in lines 11 through 14.

Page 3, line 18, after "Unless" insert ":

**(1) for purposes of a near fatality, a police investigation is ongoing; or**

**(2)".**

Page 3, line 19, delete "," and insert ";".

Page 3, line 19, beginning with "a" begin a new line blocked left.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 131 as introduced.)

GROOMS, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0.

